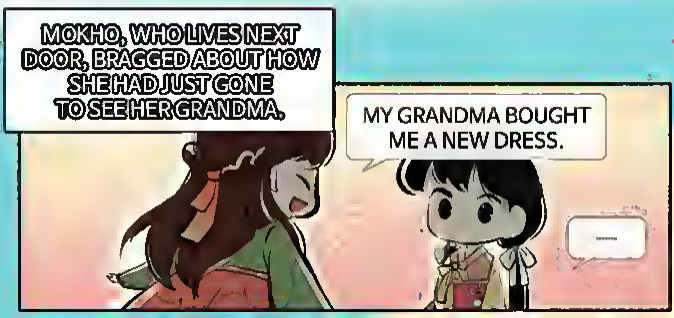
THE FOLLOWING IS A WORK OF FICTION.

THIS WORK CONTAINS SCENES WHICH MAY BE DISTURBING FOR SOME READERS, SO THOSE WITH WEAK HEARTS ARE ADVISED NOT TO READ ON.



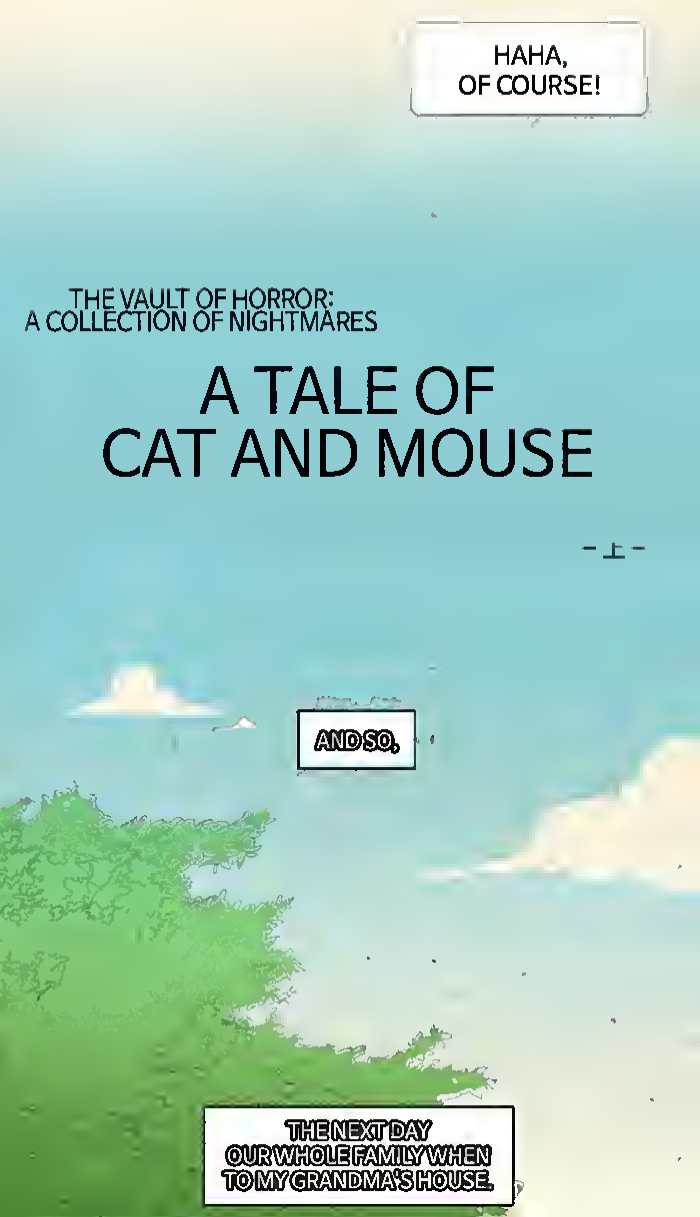
WOW GOOD FOR YOU!
JEALOUS, RIGHT? I KNEW YOU'D BE. HAHA
I WAS JEALOUS, SO I WENT TO ASK MY MOM ABOUT MY OWN GRANDMA.
MOM, DO I HAVE A GRANDMA TOO?

MOM STARED AT ME FOR MINUTE
AND THEN SMILED AND ANSWERED.
OF COURSE
YOU HAVE A GRANDMA!
WOW~
WOOOW
YOU'VE GOT MY PARENTS AS GRANDPARENTS, AND YOUR DAD'S PARENTS.
OHH~

I HAD SOMETHING TO BRAG ABOUT TO MOKHO NEXT TIME.
ARE YOU THAT HAPPY ABOUT HAVING GRANDPARENTS?
YEAH, I'M REALLY HAPPY!

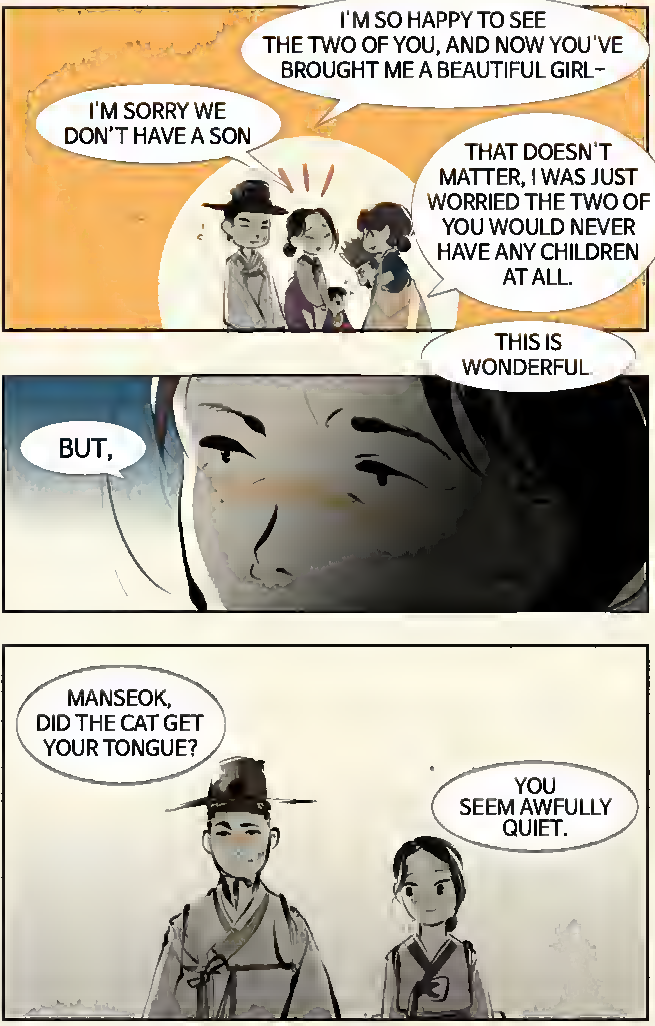
...
...HM,
THEN HOW ABOUT TOMORROW, ME, YOU AND YOUR DAD MAKE A TRIP TO YOUR DAD'S PARENTS?
STUNNED
...

REALLY?


HAHA,
OF COURSE!
THE VAULT OF HORROR:
A COLLECTION OF NIGHTMARES
A TALE OF
CAT AND MOUSE
－上－
AND SO,
THE NEXT DAY
OUR WHOLE FAMILY WHEN
TO MY GRANDMA'S HOUSE.

WELL WHO DO WE HAVE HERE!?
OUR DEAR SON AND DAUGHTER-IN-LAW! IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU, MANSEOK.

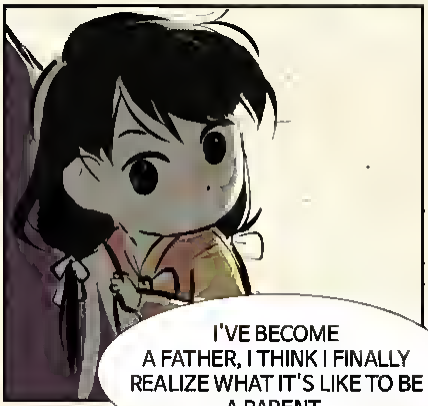
HAVE YOU BEEN WELL?
YES, MA'AM.
BUT.. WHO'S THIS LITTLE GIRL..?
THIS IS EUNSOL.
SHE TURNED 7 THIS YEAR
STARE..
FLINCH
SMILE
WELCOME, EUNSOL.


I'M SO HAPPY TO SEE THE TWO OF YOU, AND NOW YOU'VE BROUGHT ME A BEAUTIFUL GIRL~
I'M SORRY WE DON'T HAVE A SON
THAT DOESN'T MATTER, I WAS JUST WORRIED THE TWO OF YOU WOULD NEVER HAVE ANY CHILDREN AT ALL.
THIS IS WONDERFUL
BUT,
MANSEOK, DID THE CAT GET YOUR TONGUE?
YOU SEEM AWFULLY QUIET.

.....
.....

WHISTLE!
DAD.
MOM, IT'S GOOD TO BE HOME

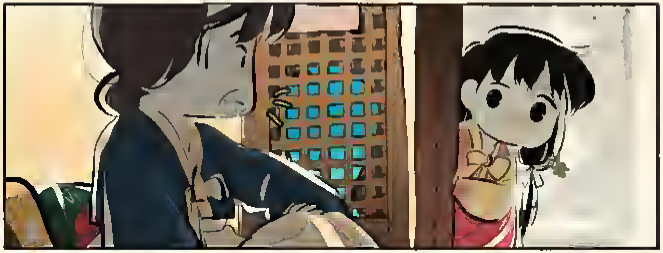
I'M SORRY
WE HAVEN'T VISITED MORE OFTEN.

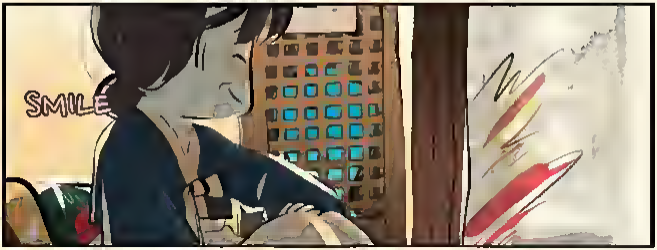


THANK YOU. DAD. MOM

I KNOW IT'S LATE, BUT I HOPE YOU'LL FORGIVE ALL OF MY MISTAKES.

MY GRANDMA AND GRANDPA





HI, EUNSOL.
WHY'RE YOU STANDING THERE? COME ON IN.
HESITATE
HESITATE
SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE
TAP
TAP
COME HERE.
HESITATE
HESITATE
SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE

THERE YOU GO.
PLOP!
TOOK REALLY GOOD CARE OF ME.
I DON'T KNOW HOW THEY MANAGED TO HIDE THIS LITTLE ANGEL FROM US FOR SO LONG.
COME ON NOW, YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE HER BLUSH.
I'M SURE THEY WEREN'T HIDING HER.
I DIDN'T MEAN IT LITERALLY.
BY THE WAY,
DON'T YOU THINK EUNSOL'S NAILS ARE BIT TOO LONG?
HM? OH, YOU'RE RIGHT.

WHY WOULD HER MOTHER LET THEM GROW SO LONG WITHOUT CUTTING THEM.
HONEY! GET THE NAIL CLIPPERS!

EUNSOL,
DO YOU WANNA HEAR AN OLD STORY ABOUT MY FAMILY?

MY GREAT GREAT GRANDMA WAS ON HER WAY BACK FROM VISITING HER FIRST SON.
SHE WAS CROSSING THROUGH THIS CREEPY MOUNTAIN PATH TO GET HOME, BUT SOMETHING WAS VERY WRONG.
THERE'S A LONG TRAIL SURROUNDED BY PUMPKIN FLOWERS ON THE WAY TO HER HOUSE. SHE WALKED ALL DAY UNTIL THE SUN SET AND SHE HEARD OWLS CALLING OUT, BUT SHE STILL HADN'T COME TO THAT PUMPKIN FLOWER TRAIL.

PEOPLE DIDN'T USUALLY HAVE ANY TROUBLE FINDING THEIR WAY ON THIS PATH, BUT MY POOR OLD GREAT GREAT GRANDMA WAS ALL ALONE AND SHE COULDN'T SEE VERY WELL IN THE MOONLIGHT. NOT TO MENTION SHE HAD DIFFICULTY WALKING.

AND THINGS LOOK VERY DIFFERENT AT NIGHT THAN THEY DO DURING THE DAY. YOU DON'T SEE THINGS THAT YOU'RE USED TO SEEING, AND EVEN THINGS YOU'VE SEEN COUNTLESS TIMES SUDDENLY SEEM NEW AND STRANGE.

IT GOT DARKER AND DARKER UNTIL SHE COULDN'T SEE A THING IN FRONT OF HER, BUT THEN SHE SUDDENLY SAW A LITTLE THATCHED HOUSE IN FRONT OF HER.

SHE THOUGHT TO HERSELF:
"SINCE WHEN WAS THIS HERE?"

EVEN THOUGH SHE FELT BAD FOR BOTHERING
THE RESIDENTS OF THE THATCHED HOUSE,
SHE DIDN'T WANT TO SPEND THE NIGHT
IN A FOREST WHERE SHE COULD BE ATTACKED
BY TIGERS OR WILD BOARS.

BUT THE STRANGE THING IS,

AS SOON AS SHE APPROACHED THE HOUSE,
A COUPLE CAME OUT AS IF THEY HAD BEEN EXPECTING HER AND, UPON SEEING HER,
THEY CRIED "MOM!!"
WITH TEARS IN THEIR EYES.
THE YOUNG COUPLE SAID THAT THE YOUNG MAN'S MOTHER HAD JUST PASSED AWAY 3 DAYS EARLIER,
AND MY GREAT GREAT GRANDMA RESEMBLED HER SO MUCH THAT THEY THOUGHT SHE HAD COME BACK TO VISIT THEM.

THE YOUNG COUPLE TOLD HER
THEY WANTED TO DO EVERYTHING FOR
MY GREAT GREAT GRANDMA THAT THEY DIDN'T
GET A CHANCE TO DO FOR HIS MOM.
SO THEY PREPARED ALL KINDS OF DELICIOUS
FOODS FOR HER TO ENJOY,

AND THEY LET HER STAY
IN A WARM ROOM WITH
SOFT BLANKETS.
UNTIL SHE FELL ASLEEP.

THE YOUNG MAN MASSAGED HER SHOULDERS
AND THE YOUNG WOMAN HER LEGS.

FIVE TIMES
ON THE LEFT,
THEN FIVE TIMES
ON THE RIGHT.
FIVE TIMES
ON THE LEFT,

THEN FIVE TIMES
ON THE RIGHT.
AND SO SHE FELL ASLEEP FOR A WHILE

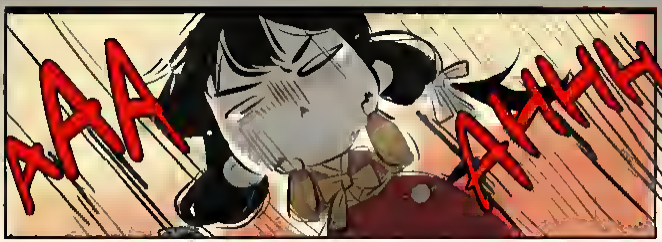
A LITTLE WHILE LATER,
SHE AWOKE TO THE FEELING OF HANDS
MASSAGING HER SHOULDERS.
"IT'S ALRIGHT..
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO
THAT NOW."

BUT YOU KNOW WHAT?
EVEN THOUGH SHE TOLD THEM TO STOP,
THEY JUST KEPT MASSAGING HER.
SHE FELT BAD THAT THEY WERE
GOING TO SO MUCH TROUBLE FOR HER,
SO SHE OPENED HER EYES AND WAS GOING
TO TELL THEM TO STOP.
BUT,
BEFORE HER EYES

WAS NOT THE YOUNG COUPLE–
THERE WERE TWO CENTIPEDES

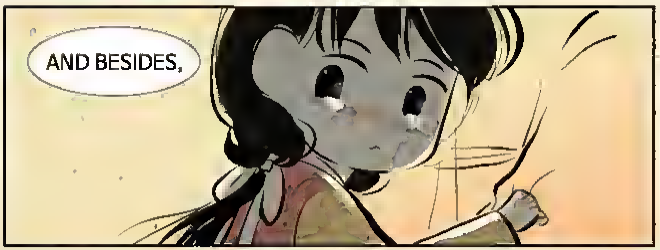
CRAWLING ALL OVER HER,
MASSAGING HER LEGS
HER FINGERS
AND
HER FACE.

AAAAA


AAA
AHHH

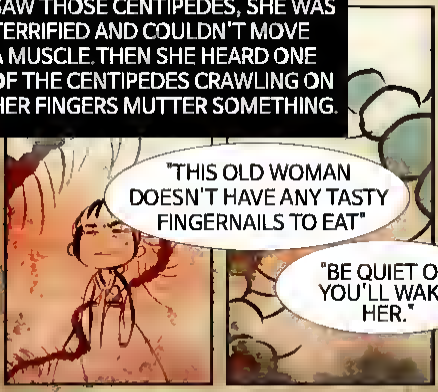
OH MY!
DID I SCARE YOU THAT BADLY, EUNSOL?
I SHOULDN'T HAVE TEASED YOU LIKE THAT.
PAT
PAT

LOOK, EUNSOL. THE SUN IS STILL HIGH UP IN THE SKY. YOU'VE GOT NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF.

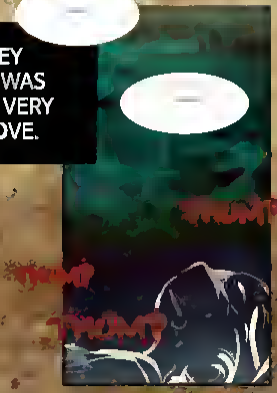

AND BESIDES,

THAT'S NOT THE END OF THE STORY.

WHEN MY GREAT GREAT GRANDMA SAW THOSE CENTIPEDES, SHE WAS TERRIFIED AND COULDN'T MOVE A MUSCLE.THEN SHE HEARD ONE OF THE CENTIPEDES CRAWLING ON HER FINGERS MUTTER SOMETHING.



SHE WAS AFRAID THEY WOULD FIND OUT SHE WAS AWAKE,SO SHE STAYED VERY QUIET AND DIDN'T MOVE.



BUT SHE COULDN'T FOOL THEM.

THUMP

"I THINK SHE'S ALREADY AWAKE!"

THUMP

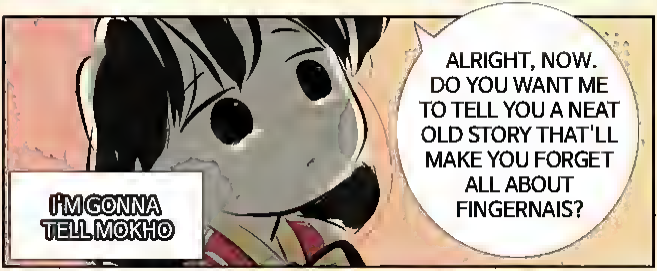
WHEN SHE OPENED HER EYES AGAIN, THE CENTIPEDES HAD ALREADY DISAPPEARED,

JUMP

AND SHE FOUND THAT SHE WASN'T IN THE HOUSE SHE HAD SEEN YESTERDAY BUT RATHER LAYING ON A BIG ROCK IN THE FOREST.

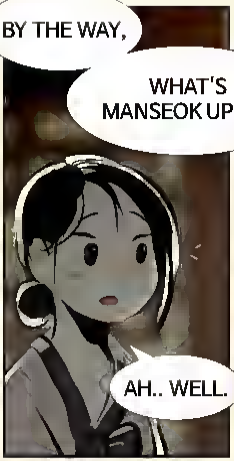
SEE?
THE ENDING WASN'T
SO SCARY, WAS IT?
AND LOOK.
WHILE I WAS TELLING
YOU THAT STORY,
I CLIPPED YOUR FINGERNAIS
FOR YOU, SO NOW
THE CENTIPEDES
WON'T BOTHER YOU.

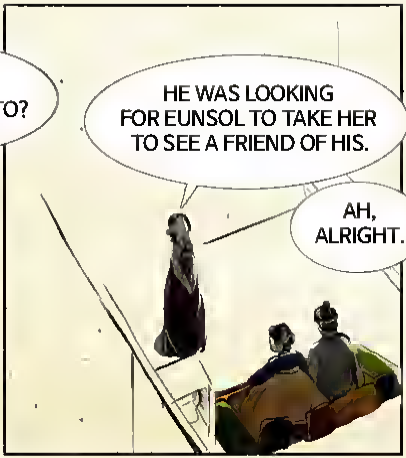
IF YOU KEEP THEM SHORT, YOU'LL NEVER HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THEM HARMING YOU. SO IF THEY SEEM A BIT LONG, JUST ASK YOUR MOTHER TO CLIP THEM FOR YOU.



THAT MY GRANDMA TOLD ME ALL KINDS OF COOL STORIES ABOUT THE OLD DAYS.

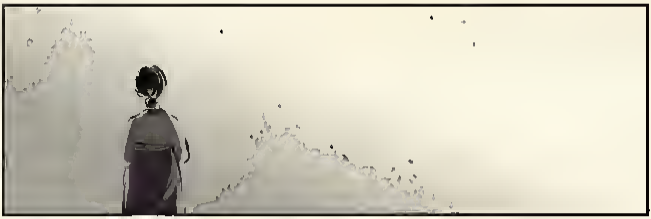
GOODNESS, I WAS WONDERING WHERE SHE WAS ALL DAY,
I'M SORRY. I HOPE SHE DIDN'T BOTHER YOU TOO MUCH.
NOT AT ALL.
I HAD MORE FUN THAN I'VE HAD IN AGES. WE DON'T HAVE ANY DAUGHTERS IN OUR HOUSEHOLD, AS YOU KNOW.
WHY'D YOU WAIT SO LONG TO BRING THIS LITTLE DARLING HERE.
SNOOZE
SNOOZE





YOU MUST BE EXHAUSTED, SO HURRY UP AND BRING MANSEOK BACK.

YES, SIR.



..ACTUALLY,
I WANTED TO TELL YOU
SOMETHING.

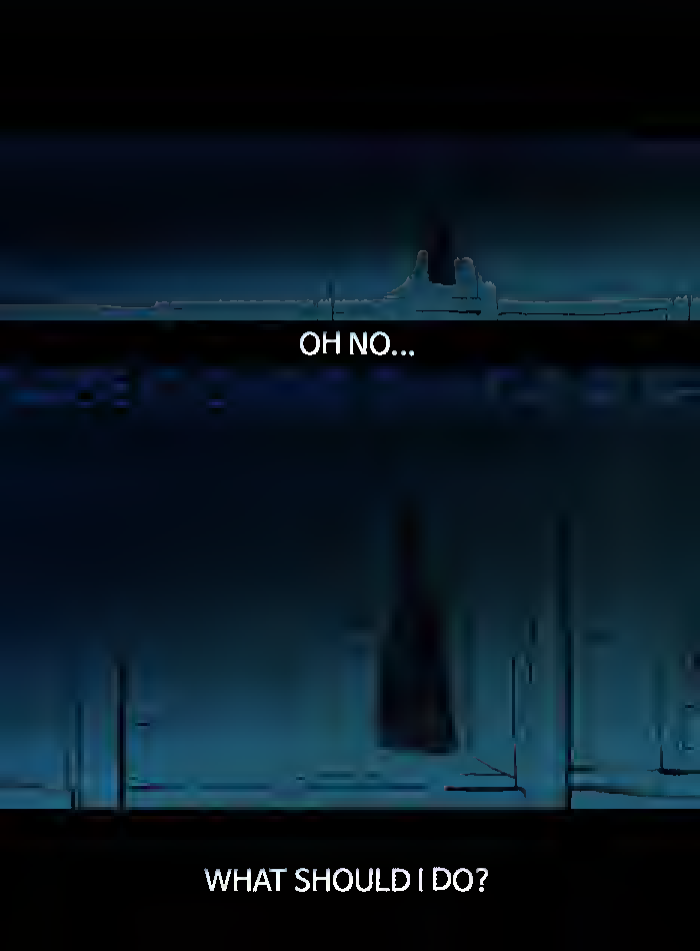
SHE'S NOT RUDE OR
ANYTHING LIKE THAT, BUT
SHE SEEMS TO GET SCARED
MORE EASILY THAN
OTHER CHILDREN.

REALLY?

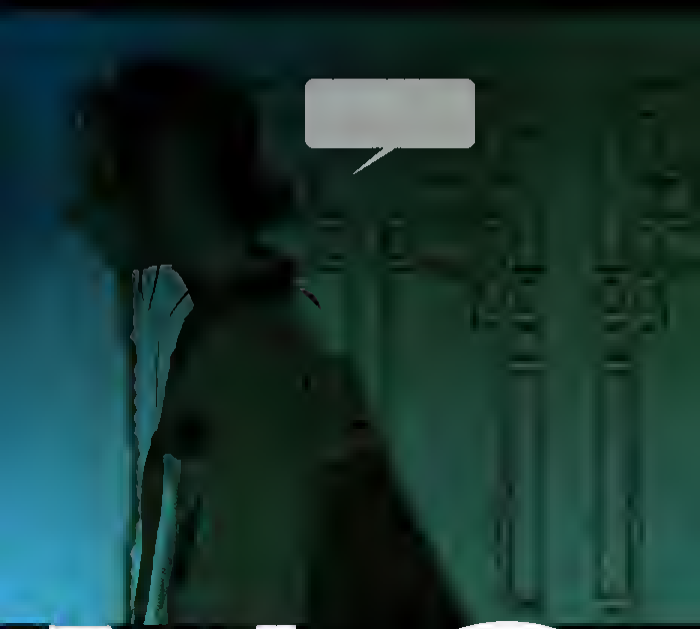
HER NAILS WERE SO LONG AND NO ONE HAD CUT THEM,
SO I TRIED TO CUT THEM FOR HER, BUT SHE WAS SO AFRAID.
DON'T SPOIL HER TOO MUCH OR TREAT HER LIKE A PRINCESS.
AH.. I UNDERSTAND.
BUT, UM..
MA'AM.

COULD I ASK YOU SOMETHING?
WHAT IS IT?
WHERE DID YOU THROW OUT HER FINGER AND TOE NAIL CLIPPINGS?
IN THE BACKYARD.
WHY? IS THERE A PROBLEM?

NO, IT'S NOTHING.
I'LL GO GET MANSEOK.


OH NO...
WHAT SHOULD I DO?

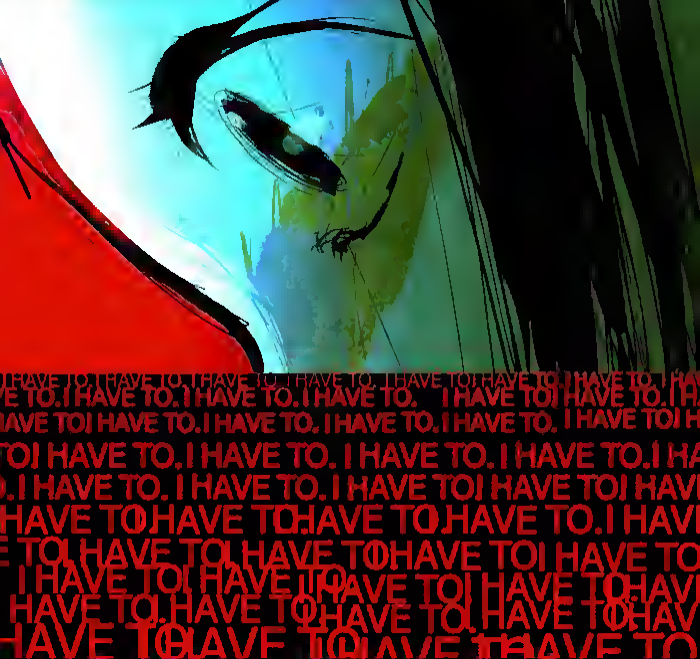
WELL, I GUESS IT'LL BE ALRIGHT...

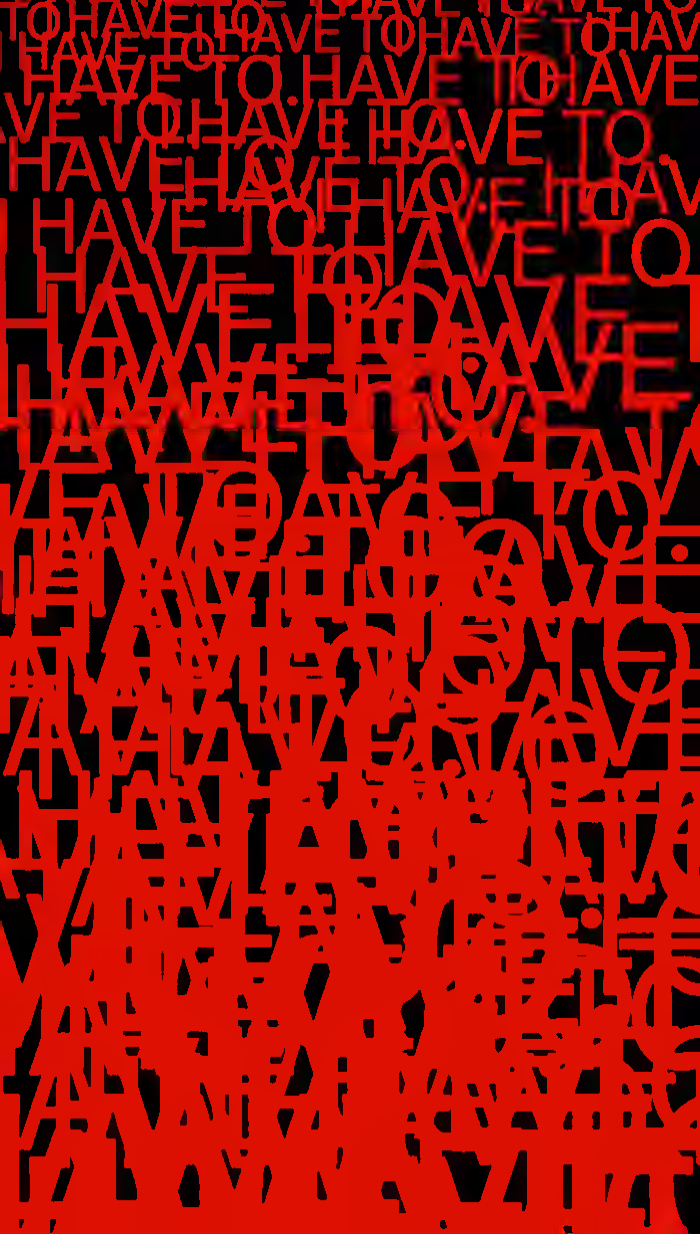


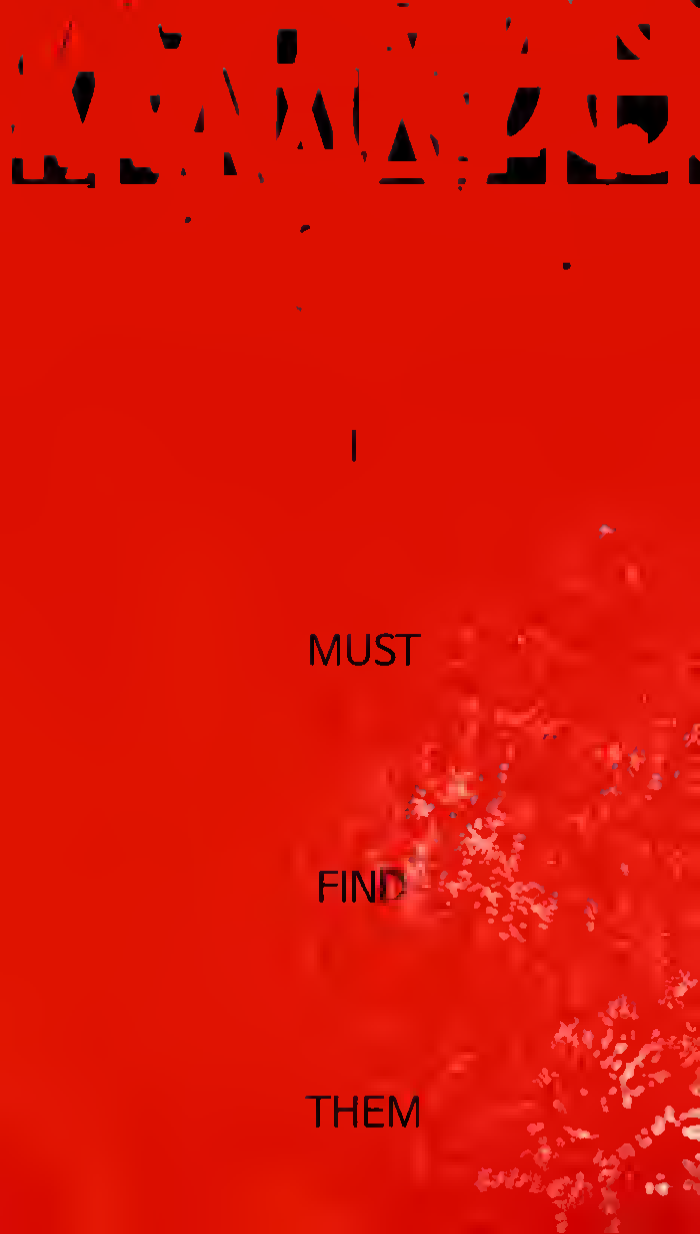
NO

I'VE GOT TO FIND THEM.

I HAVE TO.


I HAVE TO. I HAVE TO. I HAVE TO.


TO HAVE TO HAVE TO HAVE


I
MUST
FIND
THEM

Jesus Saves

Ps9

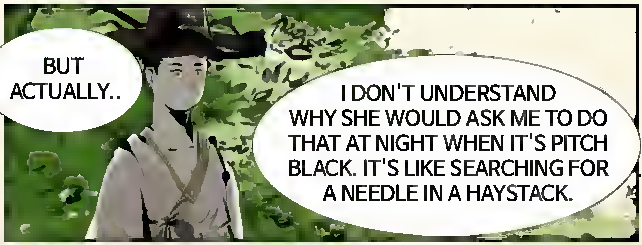
WHAT?
YOU WIFE WENT BACK HOME?
YEAH..SOMETHING URGENT CAME UP SO I SENT HER BACK.
THAT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE.
I KNOW THEY SAY THAT YOUNG PEOPLE NOWADAYS TEND TO RUSH AROUND A LOT, BUT WHAT THE HECK IS THE REASON?
WHY WOULD SHE JUST RUSH OFF IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT AND LEAVE YOU AND HER DAUGHTER HERE?
.....

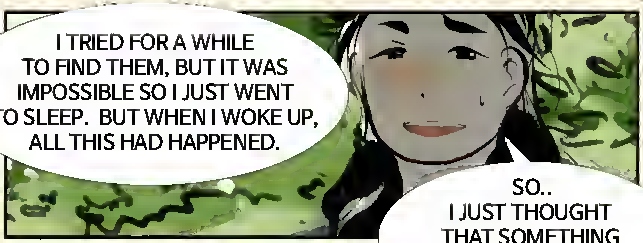
WE'LL BE BACK... SOON.
UGH...
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS.
IT'S ALRIGHT! HONEY!!
STUMBLE
THERE'S BEEN SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT HIM SINCE HE GOT MARRIED.
AND NOW THAT WIFE OF HIS IS PISSING ME OFF.
GULP

MANSEOK!

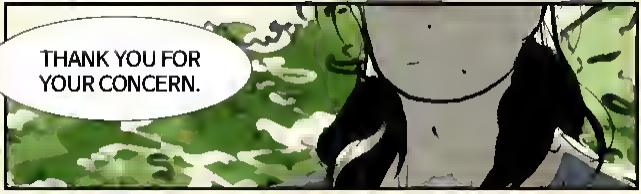
MANSEOK!

GIWAN, IS THAT YOU?
YOU REMEMBER ME!
OF COURSE I DO! ...WHAT IS IT?
WELL..
UM..
I'M NOT SURE HOW TO TELL YOU THIS, BUT SOMETHING SEEMS WRONG HERE.
ACTUALLY, YESTERDAY
YOUR WIFE TOLD ME TO FIND ALL OF EUNSOL'S FINGERNAIL CLIPPINGS..SO I SPENT ALL NIGHT LOOKING FOR THEM.

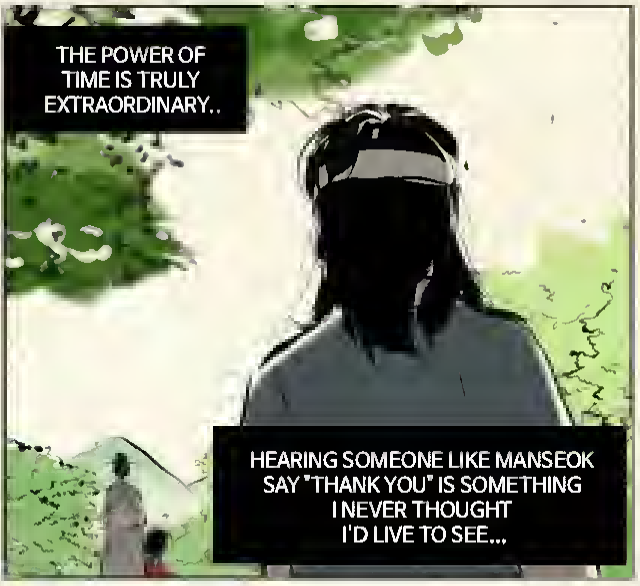

BUT ACTUALLY..
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY SHE WOULD ASK ME TO DO THAT AT NIGHT WHEN IT'S PITCH BLACK. IT'S LIKE SEARCHING FOR A NEEDLE IN A HAYSTACK.


I TRIED FOR A WHILE TO FIND THEM, BUT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE SO I JUST WENT TO SLEEP. BUT WHEN I WOKE UP, ALL THIS HAD HAPPENED.
SO.. I JUST THOUGHT THAT SOMETHING SEEMED WRONG ABOUT ALL THIS.

.....,
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU RAN ALL THE WAY HERE TO TELL ME,
THIS DOESN'T CONCERN YOU AT ALL SO DON'T WORRY AND HEAD BACK.
WHAT?



I'LL SEE YOU LATER.


THE POWER OF TIME IS TRULY EXTRAORDINARY..
HEARING SOMEONE LIKE MANSEOK SAY "THANK YOU" IS SOMETHING I NEVER THOUGHT I'D LIVE TO SEE...

IF I HAD KNOWN HE'D REACT LIKE THIS,
I WOULD'VE TRIED TO HELP HIS WIFE MORE..

A TALE OF CAT AND MOUSE

CONTINUED IN PART 2